[English]

Design of Wagons

1029. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to improve the design of wagons and upgradation of technology for manufacturing of wagons and locomotive coaches;

(b) if so, the details of proposals finalised/under consideration implications thereof;

(c) the details regarding import of locomotives/ coaches made during the last three years and proposals under consideration for the current year;

(d) whether the Government are considering to import specially designed coaches for specific trains to attract and promote the tourism; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir. Design improvements and upgradation in technology of rolling stock viz. locomotives, coaches and wagons is a continuous process.

(b) Among others, a few recently finalised technological upgradation proposals are as under :-

(i) *Electric Locomotive* -

Transfer of technology from M/s. ABB, Switzerland for indigenous manufacture of state-of-art technology energy efficient electric locomotive with 3-phase a.c. drive, GTO based thyristor, microprocessor control having regenerative braking feature as energy saving device at Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, Chittaranjan.

(ii) *Diesel Locomotives* -

Transfer of technology agreement with M/s. General Motors, USA for manufacture of modern fuel efficient 4000 HP Diesel locomotives at Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi.

(iii) *Coaches* -

Transfer of technology agreement with M/s. Linke Hofmann Busch, Germany for manufacture of modern light weight coaches at Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala.

(c) No import of Diesel Locomotives or coaches has been made during the last three years and it is also not likely to materialise during the current year.

The details of energy efficient 3-phase a.c. drive, GTO based, microprocessor control Electric locomotives imported under Transfer of Technology during last three years and the proposals for the current year are as under :-

(i) Ten passenger locomotive alongwith one loco as bank of spare and six fully assemble freight locomotive have been received so far during 1995-96 and 1996-97. Besides, ten freight locomotive in semi knocked down/ completely knocked down condition have also been received during 1996-97 and four freight locomotives along with two locos as bank of spares in semi knocked down/ completely knocked down condition are expected to be received during 1996-97 from M/s. ABB, Switzerland which will be assembled at Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, Chittaranjan.

(ii) There is no proposal under consideration for importation of electric locomotive for the current year.

(d) Government have not considered importing of coaches specially designed for tourist traffic but has permitted the tourist train operators to obtain specially designed coaches for this purpose either import or from India.

(e) As the tourist train operators are yet to finalise the design and their source of coaches, no details are yet available.

Railway Bridge on Ghaghra River

1030. SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct railway bridge on Ghaghra river in Ayodhya;

(b) if so, the time by which the work on above bridge is likely to be started and completed; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Foundation stone has been laid by Prime Minister on 18.08.96. Tenders for the bridge from pre-qualified firms have been floated. Work is planned to be completed within the 9th Plan.

(c) Does not arise.

Introduction of more EMU trains between Barddhaman and Asansol

1031. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce more EMU trains between Barddhaman and Asansol section;